

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

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FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4378

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

CINCUSAFE

CINCUSAREUR

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1163

E.O. 11652: GDS 12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJ: BASIC ISSUES OF DEFENSE PLANNING: DEFENSE AGAINST ARMOR

REF: A) USNATO 0860, B) USNATO 1003

1. MISSION HAS GATHERED FURTHER INFORMATION ON FRG PLANS FOR ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY IN NEW MECHANIZED INFANTRY BRIGADE, IMPROVING ROUGH COMPARISON PROVIDED IN REF B. FRG MECHANIZED INFANTRY PLATOONS WILL HAVE ONE MILAN AND TWO 1000 METER WEAPONS SUCH AS DRAGON. MORE ACCURATE COMPARISON OF ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY OF SIMILARLY STRUCTURED US AND FRG MECHANIZED INFANTRY BRIGADES WOULD BE AS FOLLOWS:

WEAPON (RANGE)	FRG	US
TANKS	66	108
TOW (3000 METERS)	9	54
CONFIDENTIAL		

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MILAN (2000 METERS)	18	0
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DRAGON (1000 METERS)	36	81
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2. FRG BRIGADE CONSISTS OF 3900 MEN, OF WHICH MISSION

ESTIMATES ABOUT 3000 MEN WOULD BE IN COMBAT BATTALIONS.
US STRENGTH IN COMBAT BATTALIONS WOULD BE ABOUT 3750.
THEREFORE AVERAGE FRG BRIGADE FRONT WOULD PROBABLY BE
ABOUT 25PCT NARROWER THAN US. BUT EVEN WITH 25PCT DOWNWARD
ADJUSTMENT IN US ANTI-TANK NUMBERS FOR COMPARISON PURPOSES,
A SERIOUS IMBALANCE REMAINS BETWEEN FRG AND US PLANNING FOR
NEW ANTI-TANK CAPABILITY.

3. MISSION RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON EXTEND INVITATION TO
FRG TO SEND HIGH LEVEL ARMY REPS TO WASHINGTON
TO DISCUSS ANTI-TANK CONCEPTS AND LEVELS OF ANTI-TANK
WEAPONS. US OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO OBTAIN AN INCREASE IN
ANTI-TANK WEAPONS IN FRG PLANS FOR NEW ARMY ORGANIZATION
PRIOR TO FRG ANTI-TANK PRESENTATION TO THE NATO EXECUTIVE
WORKING GROUP (AD 70). HOWEVER, MEETING SHOULD BE IN SPIRIT
OF IMPROVING ANTI-TANK RATIONALE AND CAPABILITY FOR BOTH US
AND FRG.

4. INTERNATIONAL STAFF RECOMMENDS LATE MARCH FOR US ANTI-TANK
BRIEFING TO EWG, BUT US/FRG MEETING SHOULD PRECEDE EWG MEETING
BY AT LEAST A WEEK TO PERMIT ANY NECESSARY CHANGES IN
BRIEFING. REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE ON EWG MEETING DATE.
RUMSFELD

CONFIDENTIAL

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